Appendix CL, Annexure No. 79]. Among the children major problems encountered were protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM), Vitamins 'A' deficiency and deficiency of B-Complex Vitamins. Clinical anaemia was also prevalent. Anaemia was found in all age groups. A wide variation in the extent of prevalence of nutrition deficiency signs was found in the State surveyed. Prevalence of 'night blindness and Bitot' spots in Rajasthan was reported to be higher as compared to other States. These signs were seen among adults also quite frequently in Rajasthan unlike in other States.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The programme of Vitamin 'A' Solution distribution amongst pre-school children as prophylaxis against deficiency is being implemented through the States.

ICMR Nutrition Survey in drought affected area

1677. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NIN, Hyderabad, DMRC, Jodhpur, RMRC, Jabalpur were involved in an ICMR Nutrition Survey regarding the effect of drought on nutritional status, specially of the weaker sections and the reports have been analysed|evaluated and made public and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are aware that ICMR Bulletin in July, 1988 had totally omitted the findings on Rajasthan, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the findings of the Rapid Drought Survey of six drought affected Districts of Rajasthan carried out by DMRC, Jodhpur from 26th October, 1987 had revealed serious Vitamin A deficiencies leading to Blindness; and

(d) these important findings have not been brought out by the ICMR Bulletin, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The article in ICMR Bulletin of July, 1988 was based on the features entitled 'Drought and Nutrition' in 'Nurition News', Vol. 8(6), 1987 and 'Diet and Nutrition during Drought' in Nutritoin News Vol. 9(3), 1988 published from one of the ICMR Institutions *viz.* National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) at Hyderabad. 'Nutrition News' is the in-house magazine of this Institution which publishes information on research carried out by that particular Institute *viz.* NIN, Hyderabad. This is the reason why the ICMR Bulletin of July, 1988 incorporated information only on the five States covered by the NIN, Hyderabad.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The survey conducted by Desert Medicine Research Centre, Jodhpur has shown that the prevalence of Vitamin 'A' deficiency was rather high. Among pre-school children Night Blindness was found to be 13.6 per cent. As mentioned above, the ICMR Bulletin of July, 1988 was based on artlcles publiched in the nutrition news from NIN, Hyderabad, and hence the results of findings from Rajasthan had not been included in this bulletin.

Setting up of tissue culture laboratory at Bangalore

1678. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first tissue culture Laboratory has been set up by Government at Bangalore as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 24th February, 1989, if so, the details thereof and its specific targets;

(b) whether similar Laboratory has also been operating under CSIR at Pune; if so, what is the number of tree and other Saplings produced since its inception;

(c) what has been the total production of tree Sapling in the country since its inception and what has been the survival rate; and